



World Food Programme

WFP Pakistan Country Brief

January 2024

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Mohammad Arif is feeding his one-year-old daughter, Ayesha WFP's specialised nutritious food in Kharan, Balochistan. WFP/Anam Abbas

Operational Context

Pakistan faces significant multidimensional risks that are impeding its progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2025, which outlines the country's national development priorities. Pakistan also continues to grapple with a precarious economic situation and increased political polarization. The convergence of political instability, economic uncertainty and security threats could potentially further destabilize the country ahead of the 2024 general election. Concurrently, the elevated inflation rates are compounding challenges, pushing more people into poverty, and increasing their vulnerability to shocks.

WFP's country strategic plan 2023-2027 aligns with Pakistan's national development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on Zero Hunger (SDG 2). WFP provides critical relief and nutrition support to vulnerable people across Pakistan. It also advances government efforts to enhance food and nutrition security by providing policy advice and supporting the formulation of sustainable strategies that reinforce Pakistan's food systems and improve communities' resilience to recurring extreme weather events.



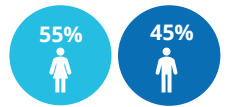
Population (World Population Prospects 2022): **236 million**

Chronic malnutrition: **40% of children aged 6-59 months**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2021-22 Human Development Index: **161 out of 191**

In Numbers



474,000 people assisted

3,069 mt food and **US\$ 344,000** in cash distributed

330,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and children assisted under Benazir Nashonuma Programme

US\$ 10.16 million funding requirements (Feb-July 2024)

Operational Updates

- WFP provided 108,000 people with 1,122 mt of food and US\$ 263,000 in cash under WFP's asset creation and livelihood programme in flood-affected and food insecure districts. WFP also empowered 3,000 women through marketable skills development training, while more than 13,000 men participated in community infrastructure rehabilitation activities that included the construction of 90 flood protection structures (protection/retention walls, bunds, and check-dams) and 110 soil and water conservation schemes (water ponds and restoration of irrigation networks).
- Through the community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programme in 11 flood-affected districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh provinces. WFP provided specialized nutritious food (SNF) to 24,400 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW) and children under the age of 5 years. Under CMAM-cash integrated programme, more than US\$81,000 cash assistance was provided to 12,000 beneficiaries in Khairpur and Sukkur districts of Sindh.
- In partnership with the Government of Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), WFP is implementing the Benazir Nashonuma Programme (BNP) to prevent stunting in young children. WFP provided over 30 million sachets of SNF to 330,000 PBW and children aged 6-24 months which will last for 3 months. The BNP is implemented through 525 facilitation centres, including 45 mobile units, in 158 districts.
- To break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, WFP is supporting a BISP initiative which focuses on improving adolescent girls' health and nutrition as 'future mothers' among the poorest households. The model is being piloted in six districts in four provinces. More than 4,900 adolescent girls enrolled in the programme.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023–2027)

Total Requirement (US\$)	Allocated Contributions (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (US\$)
787.34 million	250.74 million	10.16 million

Strategic Result 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Strategic Outcome 1: Communities in Pakistan at higher risk of vulnerability to climate change and other shocks are more resilient and have enhanced capacity to improve their livelihoods by 2027.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activity 1: Enhance the Government’s emergency preparedness.

Activity 2: Strengthen the resilience and self-reliance of communities at higher risk of vulnerability.

Strategic Result 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes

Strategic Outcome 2: Pakistan’s people at higher risk of vulnerability, especially women and children, have greater access to affordable, nutritious diets and basic social services (education, health and nutrition) by 2027.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activity 3: Strengthen Institutional capacity to implement effective nutrition interventions and implementation of the Government’s safety net programme.

Activity 4: Strengthen national social protection systems.

Activity 5: Strengthen school meals safety net programmes.

Strategic Result 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods

Strategic Outcome 3: Pakistan’s food systems are resilient to shocks and support access to healthy and nutritious food by all of Pakistan’s communities by 2027.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activity 6: Enhance government and private sector capacity to strengthen the food supply chain system’s resilience to shocks, and supply chain and market system for fortified and other nutritious food.

Strategic Result 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Strategic Outcome 4: Communities in Pakistan at higher risk of vulnerability to climate change and other shocks have access to adequate food and nutrition before, during and in the aftermath of shocks.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activity 7: Strengthen vulnerable communities’ resilience and preparedness.

Strategic Result 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development partners and Government of Pakistan have access to reliable common services on demand.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activity 8: Ensure more efficient, effective and coordinated interventions.

Donors: Governments of Pakistan, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, UK, USA, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The European Commission

- WFP also implemented CMAM services under BNP to address the challenge of individuals being underweight, providing assistance to 11,000 children and pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- WFP is supporting 55 small-scale wheat mills, in five districts in KP, Punjab and Islamabad Capital Territory to produce fortified wheat flour that can be purchased by local consumers. The project has supported the fortification of 90 percent (over 696 mt) of commercial production of the fortified flour in pilot districts. By March 2024, WFP will triple the number of supported mills to 155 in 22 districts.
- On 22 January, WFP hosted a meeting on food system transformation with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Participants agreed to work together to generate evidence for the food systems dashboard and engage in federal-level advocacy with government entities. A detailed action plan will be developed in February.
- As part of its support to humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, WFP dispatched more than 3,770 mt of food procured from Pakistan, bringing the total commodities dispatched to Afghanistan since August 2021 to 542,400 mt valued at US\$ 265 million.
- The protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) network provincial chapter, KP, held an orientation workshop in Peshawar on 3 January that included 61 participants who discussed the national network’s history, achievements, and a country-level action plan. Workshop topics also included the United Nations common tool for partner’s PSEA assessment and the country work plan.

Challenges

- Cross-border operations with Afghanistan are hindered by the closure of the Chaman border since 20 November 2023, and the 13 to 22 January closure of the Torkham border. Although the Torkham border re-opened on 23 January, congestion persists, resulting in transportation delays.

Monitoring

- The January Market Price Bulletin revealed that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased from 29.2 to 29.7 percent in December 2023. While CPI annual food inflation decreased from 27.9 percent in November to 27.5 percent in December 2023, it remains significantly high compared to inflation rates in neighbouring countries.
- WFP is scaling-up its implementation of risk-based monitoring, which considers multiple factors to identify areas where the operational risk is relatively higher so that monitoring can be prioritised. Pakistan is the first country in the region to pilot this approach, which recently concluded in Balochistan.